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Torrance, California  
April 14, 1948

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, April 14, 1948 at 8:05 p.m.

In the absence of Mayor Sherfey, Councilman Jackson moved that Councilman Tolson be appointed as Mayor Pro-tem for tonight's meeting. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro-tem Tolson called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson, and Tolson. Absent: Councilmen: Sherfey.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 23, 1948, the Minutes of a Special Meeting held April 6, 1948 and the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 13, 1948 be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Alice Lee, 15310 So. Western Avenue, Gardena, requesting the issuance of a license to conduct the business of palmistry at 2216 Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request be referred to the City Administrator for checking and recommendation. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from J. G. Caldwell, Veterans Service Center, asking that a member of the City Council be present at a meeting to be held Friday, April 16th, at the Welfare Center, to assist in completing arrangements for their Memorial Day Service.

Councilman Jackson moved that the communication be referred to the City Administrator for whatever action he deems necessary. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Loyal Order of Moose requesting free use of the Civic Auditorium on April 29, 1948, for the purpose of a public installation of officers, which will be open to the public free of charge.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the request for use of the Civic Auditorium, free of charge, be granted. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Langdon H. Tannehill and J. Emery Bennett advising they were World War II Veterans, residents of Torrance, and requesting permission to open a fireworks stand, from July 1 to 4, 1948, to be located at 22905 Narbonne Avenue.

Councilman Jackson moved that the communication be referred to the Chief of the Fire Department for recommendation. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from W. H. Stanger, Manager, Municipal Water District No. 2, advising that water will be available for a proposed residential development by Sunhaven Properties, Inc., Tract No. 15157. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Albert J. Trahant, 3707 Emerald Street, protesting the Petition for Variance, Case No. 80, for the construction of a trailer park on the south 165' of Lot 17, Tract 3458, filed by Mr. E. S. Frenger, as it will devalue his property which adjoins the proposed Traylor Park.

A like communication was received from Luther Mumford, 2325 Torrance Boulevard.

City Administrator Stevens advised that subsequent to the receipt of the above-mentioned letters, a stop order was issued on the construction and that the applicant will be required to again file a Petition for Variance; no action being necessary at this time.

A communication was read from Chas. W. Cooper, 22521 S. Vermont Avenue, requesting a refund of \$20.00, or a portion thereof, on Business License No. 921, issued January 16, 1948, for a cafe, which business he has discontinued because of a Notice to Vacate the premises at 1401 Sartori Avenue.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Mr. Cooper be refunded the unused portion of Business License No. 921. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

A communication was read from O. C. White, White Manufacturing Company, advising that Albert M. Myers, who proposed taking over said company, failed to close the escrow, and requesting that a refund of \$24.00 be made to Albert M. Myers on unused License No. 1150, issued February 19, 1948.

Councilman Jackson moved that a refund of \$24.00 be granted Albert M. Myers. Councilman Gilbert seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

A communication was read from Richfield Oil Company enclosing statement showing 2% of gross receipts under Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 92, and Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1358-1361, for the period from January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947, inclusive, and enclosing their check for \$117.01. Matter of record.

A communication was read from The Texas Company enclosing report covering Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 117 and Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance Nos. 884, 1129 and 1377 for the period January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947, inclusive, and showing no gross receipts for that period. To preclude any possible controversy concerning this matter, they enclosed their check for \$14.69 in full payment of all amounts due or claimed by the City of Torrance, said payment being made only by way of compromise.

Councilman Jackson moved that the communication be referred to the City Attorney for study. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the plan for the proposed motel to be constructed on Lot 15, Meadow Park Tract, by Richard C. Diederich, Case No. 100, was approved by the Planning Commission, and requesting the City Council to concur in this action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Richard C. Diederich, Attorney-in-Fact for his Father, John W. Diederich, advising that a Variance Petition for a motel on Lot 15, Meadow Park Tract, had been approved by the City Planning Commission, but that because of dragged out proceedings, insufficient time remains to start construction of said motel in accordance with the requirements of Land Use Ordinance No. 316; therefore, he requested a six month's extension of time.

After some discussion with the City Administrator on this request, who recommended an extension of not more than sixty days, Councilman Jackson moved that Mr. Diederich be granted an extension of not to exceed sixty days. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, stating that the Petition for Variance, Case No. 109, of Arthur C. King to permit the construction and operation of a Trailer Camp on Lot 12, Tract No. 845, located on 233rd Street, between Eshelman and Narbonne Avenues, was considered and approved by the Commission.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the Petition of R. B. Ball, Case No. 117, for a Variance and Conditional Permit for the construction and operation of a service station on the southwest corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and Redondo Beach Boulevard, on a portion of Lot 47, McDonald Tract, was considered and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council concur in the action of the City Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the Petition of J. H. Pine, Case No. 113, for a Change of Zone, from R-1 (Single-family Residential) to R-2 (Two-family Residential), affecting portions of Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 80, Torrance Tract, and Lots 1 to 12, inclusive, Tract No. 4984, had been approved by the Commission; and stating that a Public Hearing must be held before the City Council not later than May 11, 1948.

Councilman Jackson moved that the City Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission, and that a Public Hearing be held before the Council on May 11, 1948 at 8:00 p.m. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

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A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, stating that after considering the proposed amendment to Land Use Ordinance No. 316, for the purpose of changing the minimum building site area from 6000 square feet to 5000 square feet, the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend that the minimum building site area remain at 6000 square feet with a minimum 60 foot width on all new subdivisions; and that it will be necessary to set a date for a Public Hearing before the Council.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the City Council overrule the decision of the Planning Commission, and that May 11, 1948 be set as the date for holding a Public Hearing before the Council. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the Commission has approved the recommendation of Mr. George Stevens, that the name of Arlington Avenue, between 190th Street and Redondo Beach Boulevard, be changed to Van Ness Avenue, when and if that portion north of Redondo Beach Boulevard is changed, and that no other change be made at this time.

There was some discussion regarding the change of street names and the confusion this might create. It was suggested that it would be easier to change the name of a portion of Van Ness Avenue to Arlington than to change the name of Arlington Avenue to Van Ness Avenue.

Councilman Buxton moved that the matter of change of street names be referred to the City Administrator for checking. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John R. Patrick, Acting-Secretary, City Planning Commission, advising that the Planning Commission has approved Tentative Subdivision Tract Map No. 15242, submitted by the American Land Company; said tract being located between Cabrillo and Border Avenues, bounded on the north by Lincoln Avenue and on the south by Santa Fe Railroad, and requesting the City Council to concur in this action.

Councilman Gilbert moved that the Council concur in the action of the Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from City Administrator George W. Stevens submitting the following recommendations for the Council's consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

1. That a job classification for Assistant Water Superintendent be established.
2. That the Civil Service Board be authorized to hold examinations for the following position:
  - (a) Assistant Water Superintendent
  - (b) Senior Water Service Man
  - (c) Water Service Man
3. That the compensation of the City Attorney be increased by the amount of \$50.00 per month, effective April 1, 1948, for his services as attorney on matters pertaining to the water district.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the purchase of rock and oil for the maintenance of Newton Avenue from Hawthorne Blvd. to Ocean Avenue, the sum of \$900.00 (County Aid Funds).
2. For the purchase of rock and oil for the maintenance of a portion of Hollywood Parkway and Camino de Las Colinas, the sum of \$950.00 (County Aid Funds).
3. For the purchase of rock and oil for the maintenance of airport road, the sum of \$700.00 (County Aid Funds).
4. For the purchase of street marking stencils, the sum of \$55.50, plus tax.

5. For the payment to the California State Personnel Board for Classification and Salary Survey, the sum of \$1046.24.
6. For the purchase of law books for the City Attorney's office, the sum of \$88.66, including tax.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. That City Attorney C. Douglass Smith be appointed as Ex-Officio member of the Planning Commission, effective April 15, 1948.
2. That the request of the 578th Engineer Battalion, California National Guard for permission to park military vehicles in the City Yard be granted, with the provision that the City be relieved of all liability and responsibility for the vehicles, and that the permit be revocable upon ninety days' notice of the City Council.
3. That the changes in Class Specifications for Stenographer-Clerk and Police Officer, recommended by the Civil Service Board, be approved.
4. That the City Attorney be authorized to start vacation proceedings for the following:
  - (a) For a 10' strip on each side of Newton Street between Highway 101 and Madison Avenue, in accordance with previous recommendations by the Planning Commission and the City Council.
  - (b) For a portion of alley in Block 27, Torrance Tract. Said vacation is requested to provide space for the extension of the Torrance Hospital.
5. That the City Attorney be authorized to initiate the necessary procedure for granting a pipeline franchise to the Union Oil Company.
6. That the permits for the sale of fireworks within the City of Torrance be restricted to residents or businessmen of the City.
7. That the permit granted to the V.F. W. to sell safe and sane fireworks for one day in July be corrected to permit selling from June 15 to July 4, 1948, inclusive.
8. That an ordinance be prepared to cover the following traffic-control installations:
  - (a) Traffic-control signal on Carson Street at Border Avenue.
  - (b) Boulevard Stops on Arlington Avenue for south-bound traffic entering Border Avenue, on Camino de las Colinas at Calle Miramar, on Monte D'Oro at Calle Miramar and on Robert Road at Pacific Coast Highway.

REMOVAL OF TREES:

That permission be granted to remove trees at the following locations, with the provision that the abutting property owners remove and dispose of same at their own expense:

- (a) To H. Alfredo Carr, 2318 Sonoma Street, one Acacia tree.

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- (b) To Henry Grubb, 1645 Hickory Avenue, one Eucalyptus tree.
- (c) To L. C. Burger, 1329 Arlington Avenue, one pepper tree.

Councilman Gilbert moved that Council concur in the recommendations of City Administrator Stevens. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

City Attorney Smith advised that he would submit an opinion on the matter of granting to the National Guard a ninety-nine year lease to a two acre site located at the Municipal Park north of the railroad tract for the purpose of erecting an armory.

City Attorney Smith advised that he had instituted proceedings against A. M. Barnard for flooding certain streets and alleys in the Torrance Manor Tract by procuring a temporary injunction and order to show cause in the Superior Court in Long Beach; that the attorney for the defendant requested of the court a continuance to prepare for trial, which the court granted; and that the case is set for the 26th day of April, 1948 for hearing as to whether the injunction should be made permanent or not.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Wiitenan addressed the Council with reference to License Ordinance No. 381 and read Section 9 thereof, which provides for the payment of business licenses, and asked if this meant that if a business is started as of the first of April or the first of May the business license is paid for one year from that date or is the license fee retroactive.

City Attorney Smith explained that when a business license is taken out it is issued for one year in advance, and that it is not retroactive.

Mr. Wiitenan stated that the License Clerk refused to issue a license to the new purchaser, unless it was paid retroactive to January 1st, explaining that she had her orders.

Clerk Bartlett requested Mr. Wiitenan to come to the office and he would see that the matter was taken care of satisfactorily.

Councilman Gilbert moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Buxton seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Buxton, Gilbert, Jackson and Tolson. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Sherfey.

At 8:45 p.m., upon motion of Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Gilbert, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned to April 15, 1948, at 8:00 p.m.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:



MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE